

U.S. Attorney's Office

Eastern District of Texas

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SUMMER 2004

A Newsletter Published by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas

NEWSWORTHY

The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas
Makes Headlines Around the World



The Dallas Morning News



Texas Observer



The Washington Post



Denton Record-Chronicle

San Antonio Express-News

The Houston Chronicle
Serving our community



PLANO STAR COURIER
PLANO, TEXAS

Star-Telegram



Orlando Sentinel
OrlandoSentinel.com

LufkinDailyNews.com
A portion of The Lufkin Daily News, Lufkin, Texas



El Paso Times
elpasotimes.com

Los Angeles Times



E/ASESOR

Conquistador News-Journal
Friday, September 10, 2004, Laredo, Texas

The Salt Lake Tribune

Long Island Press

THE EXAMINER
The Independent Voice of Southeast Texas

KTBB
AM 600 News • Talk • Sports

Qui Pro Domina Justitia Sequitur



FIRST ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY BECKY GREGORY TO ASSIST FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE REVIEWS IN D.C.

U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that First Assistant United States Attorney, **BECKY GREGORY** will be departing for a five month special assignment in Washington, D.C. as a Special Assistant working with the Office of Intelligence Policy and Review (OIPR).

OIPR is the component of the Department of Justice which conducts intelligence investigations of foreign powers, and agents of foreign powers, engaged in terrorism, espionage, and sabotage occurring in the United States. OIPR also implements the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which was passed by Congress in 1978. OIPR works with agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's field offices throughout the United States and in Washington, D.C. to process FISA applications.

U.S. Attorney Matt Orwig says Gregory's Detail to OIPR is a true testament to her commitment to justice, "*Becky Gregory brings considerable talents to this important assignment. Mrs. Gregory's brilliant legal mind and unwavering focus will serve her, and our Nation, well.*"

Gregory joined the Eastern District of Texas in 2002 as the First Assistant to the United States Attorney. In this position, Gregory has handled the day-to-day operations of the District and acted in the place of the United States Attorney as necessary. Prior to this, she was an Assistant United States Attorney for more than ten years in the Northern District of Texas, where she handled civil and criminal cases, as well as appellate matters.

LATE JUDGE HANNAH REMEMBERED WITH OAK TREE

On Monday, April 26, 2004, an oak tree was dedicated in memory of the late US District Judge John H. Hannah, Jr. outside the Ward R. Burke Federal Courthouse in Lufkin, Texas. Present with Judge Judith Guthrie was Chief Judge Thad Heartfield, members of the Lufkin US Attorney's Office, U. S. Probation, U.S. Clerk office, and several members of the Federal Court family present. U. S. District Clerk Dave Ma-land explained that the tree planted was a slow growing Shumard red oak, among the largest of its species, towering over others, shaping itself to its surroundings, and was a fitting choice for "larger than life" Judge John Hannah, Jr.

Judge Judith Guthrie unveiled the plaque located next to the tree dedicated to her late husband. She remarked of her husband's love for history and the Courthouse and that he

would have loved the commemorative occasion, as Judge Hannah had officially joined the Navy at the same building (the Lufkin Federal Courthouse) where he would later return as Judge. Malcolm Bales commented on Judge Hannah's love for the historic building and that one could catch glimpses of Judge Hannah himself out trimming the trees, several of which he personally planted.

Chief U. S. District Judge Thad Heartfield described his colleague and friend as a man of wisdom, kindness, compassion, intellect and a great sense of humor who always left you with a smile. Judge Heartfield had a brief reading to describe the occasion. "Character is like a tree, reputation is like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of - - the tree is the real thing," Heartfield said. "And so was John Hannah".



Left: Magistrate Judge Judith Guthrie uncovers the plaque beneath the Shumard Red Oak dedicated in memory of her late husband, Judge John Hannah, Jr.

Below: Criminal Chief Malcolm Bales addresses the courthouse staff gathered to remember Judge Hannah in Lufkin.



Eastern District Marshal's Office Receives 2003 Distinguished District Award

On March 30th in Washington, D.C., Deputy Attorney General James B. Comey presented the "2003 Distinguished District Award" to the U.S. Marshals Office, Eastern District of Texas. Upon receipt of the award, U.S. Marshal **JOHN L. MOORE** expressed very high praise for and appreciation to the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Clerk's Office, U.S. Probation, Public Defender's Office and to all of the Judges in the Eastern District of Texas.

Among the accomplishments cited in the award were the Marshals Office high

clearance rate of felony warrants, initiative in the formation and guidance of Joint State and Local Fugitive Task Forces, sustained record of safe prisoner transport, timely service to the courts and the Marshals Office initial rapid response to the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster and the subsequent investigation and arrest of suspects charged with fraud and theft of government property in connection with the recovery effort.

When notified of the award, Marshal Moore stated, "the receipt of this award is

a reflection of the spirit of cooperation and teamwork that we enjoy in the Eastern District of Texas. I am convinced that we have some of the most talented and devoted men and women in the United States Marshals Service here in our office. However, recognition such as this could never have been achieved without the leadership of our Chief United States District Judge and the outstanding assistance and support of all of the dedicated professionals in the court family of the Eastern District of Texas. I am very proud to accept this honor on their behalf."

AUSAs Receive Accolades

"Heather and Maureen have shown no mercy when it comes to illicit drugs in the Eastern District of Texas." — US Attorney Matt Orwig



AUSA Heather Rattan, far left, and AUSA Maureen Smith, second from right, are congratulated by First Assistant Becky Gregory, second from left, and US Attorney Matt Orwig, far right, for their continued dedication to Operation X-Raided.

On February 19, 2004, the FBI presented awards to AUSAs Heather Rattan and Maureen Smith for their exceptional work on the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Program's Operation X-Raided. Rattan and Smith had previously received recognition from OCDETF for their work on the case.

Operation X-Raided is an ongoing investigation targeting poly drug distribution organizations

working in the Eastern District of Texas. These organizations are responsible for importing over 100,000 Ecstasy tablets from Canada and Seattle and distributing over fifty pounds of ICE and multi-hundred pounds of Hydroponic Marijuana. The investigation spanned from Rhode Island, Vermont, Tennessee, Texas, California, Washington and into Canada. Operation X-Raided has resulted in over 20 convictions with others awaiting indictment or arrest.

United States Attorney Matt Orwig was on hand to congratulate the duo for their perseverance and dedication to this operation. "Heather and Maureen have shown no mercy when it comes to illicit drugs in the Eastern District of Texas," said Orwig. "This operation has progressed like clock-work and the investigators will continue to ferret out every responsible participant for prosecution."



Director Cathy O'Neil

OCDETF DIRECTOR CATHERINE O'NEIL

Catherine (Cathy) O'Neil was introduced by U.S. Attorney Matt Orwig as the guest speaker at the Eastern District's OCDETF meeting in Plano in February 2004. O'Neil was officially appointed as the Director of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Program on February 5, 2004. She had been the Acting Director for OCDETF since August

2003, and prior to that time, had been the OCDETF Assistant Director. Before coming to Washington to serve the Program at a national level, Director O'Neil served for nearly eight years as an AUSA in the Northern District of Georgia.

Director O'Neil discussed the role, goals and funding of OCDETF. She also discussed the expansion of the

OCDETF program, which will include adding new positions. Joining Director O'Neil as speakers were Chief Investigator Dennis Cox, an expert on document examination, with the Denton County District Attorney's Office and Special Agent Vic Routh with the DEA. AUSA Bill Baldwin presided over the OCDETF meeting and training.

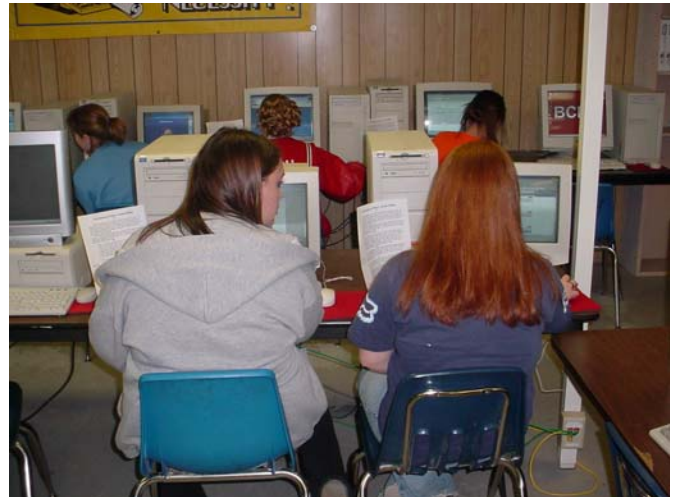
DOJ Computer Program Benefits Local Students

The Bridge City Independent School District is one of four schools that are benefiting from a Department of Justice initiative that allows excess computer equipment to be donated to schools.

To receive the equipment, a school has to apply for the excess equipment and provide proof they are eligible under the 'Computers for Learning' program. For security purposes, the hard drives are removed from the computers before they are donated.

Bridge City ISD recently received 38 Dell GX Computers from the U.S. Attorney's Office. After computers are refurbished with new hard drives, they are used by students throughout the district in their technology labs.

Other schools receiving computer equipment from the Eastern District of Texas are St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School in Port Arthur, Denison Elementary and Denison High School.



Bridge City ISD Junior High students are excited to have additional computers in their technology labs. Schools can access the "Computers for Learning" website at www.computers.fed.gov

WEED & SEED NEIGHBORHOOD

GETS COMMUNITY CENTER

Left to right: Suzanne Wolfram, former president of the Southeast Texas Family Resource Center; Elizabeth Pratt, President of the Junior League and partner with Mehaffy Weber law firm; Brad McGowan, Weed and Seed coordinator; Evelyn Lord, Beaumont Mayor; and Matt Orwig, U.S. Attorney.



A ribbon cutting was held in February, 2004, to celebrate the grand opening of the Family Resource Center in Beaumont's Charlton-Pollard neighborhood.

In late 1999, the Junior League of Beaumont began a fund-raising cam-

paign to acquire the land, construct and equip a building, as well as provide an endowment for a neighborhood center in the heart of the Charlton-Pollard neighborhood. They created a non-profit organization called the Family Resource Center (FRC).

Together, they completed the dream of opening the community center.

The FRC is a close partner with the Beaumont Weed & Seed Initiative. The center is a welcome addition to the hundreds of families in the Weed & Seed neighborhood.

The Eastern District Welcomes New Employees



AUSA **MICHELE RATCLIFFE** receives her Oath of Office from United States Attorney Orwig. Michele will handle criminal cases in the Plano office.

NEW AUSA IN PLANO

Assistant United States Attorney **MICHELE RATCLIFFE** was sworn in by US Attorney Matt Orwig on Thursday, April 8, 2004. Michele joins the district after 13 years in private practice. She will handle a variety of criminal cases in the Plano office, including computer fraud and child exploitation, in the Plano office. US Attorney Matt Orwig says Michele's addition to the office is a homerun for the Eastern District of Texas.



NEW AO RECEIVES HEARTY WELCOME

Administrative Officer **LINDA DiPIETRO** was sworn in by AUSA in Charge of the Beaumont office, **KEITH GIBLIN** on Monday April 5, 2004. Linda, who comes to us from Wisconsin, the land

of cheese, was officially welcomed at a staff breakfast on Thursday April 15. **KERRY KLINTWORTH** was also recognized at the breakfast for her fantastic job as "Acting AO" during the interim.

US Attorney Orwig welcomes new Administrative Officer, **LINDA DiPIETRO**, to the District. Linda's tremendous experience in human resources, budgeting and space planning was instrumental in her selection for the position.

TYLER GAINS LEGAL ASSISTANT

JILL WOOD has joined the Eastern District of Texas as a Legal Assistant in the Tyler office. She comes to the Department of Justice following three years with a local firm handling insurance de-

fense and workers' compensation claims. Jill says she is glad to be at the US Attorney's Office and is learning many new things every day!



JILL WOOD is a legal assistant for AUSAs Richard Moore, Allen Hurst and Tom Gibson

People Profiles

Highlighting Those Who Make It Happen in the Eastern District



Beaumont's

MADELINE

BADON was recognized for 34 years of federal service in February, 2004.

Plano's

NELL SMITH

was recognized for 15 years of federal service in April, 2004



A SALUTE TO OUR VERY OWN EASTERN DISTRICT SOLDIER

PV 2 **JOSHUA BROOMFIELD**, son of Legal Assistant **THERESA MCCLURE** of the Sherman office, currently stationed in Baumholder, Germany, has been deployed to Baghdad, Iraq. Joshua is with the First Armored Division, 2nd Battalion, Charlie Company, and is currently a part of an Emergency Rapid Response Team. It had been Joshua's plan since the tragedy on 9/11 to join the military in order to serve his country.

An injury to his foot ended his training with Airborne, but did not lessen his desire to serve. Joshua told his mom, "I joined the Army to do what they wanted me to, and if this (Iraq) is what they want, I'll do it."

Feel free to send Joshua a note of encouragement at the following address:

PV2 Joshua D. Broomfield

2/6 In.

CMR 405 Box #5694

APO AE 09034



Reflections on MANAGEMENT



By Malcolm Bales

Criminal Chief

Eastern District of Texas

Have you ever wondered how Matt Orwig looks when supine in a yoga position? Do you believe that the only thing more boring than a supervisor, is a gaggle of supervisors? Finally, who would have thought that a simple personality test could have documented what the whole district believed, but could not prove - that the supervisors are in deep need of intensive psychotherapy?

In truth, on March 18 - 19, your su-

pervisory staff met in my beautiful hometown of Nacogdoches, Texas, to reflect, to plan, and to fellowship. For the occasion, Sprint Corporate trainer, Kim Brody, came to the meeting to coordinate the retreat. She was excellent and quite gentle in explaining our dysfunction. She utilized something called the DISC profile - don't be surprised if you are asked to fill one out as well. The results of the profile were not only fascinating, but proved to be extremely insightful as

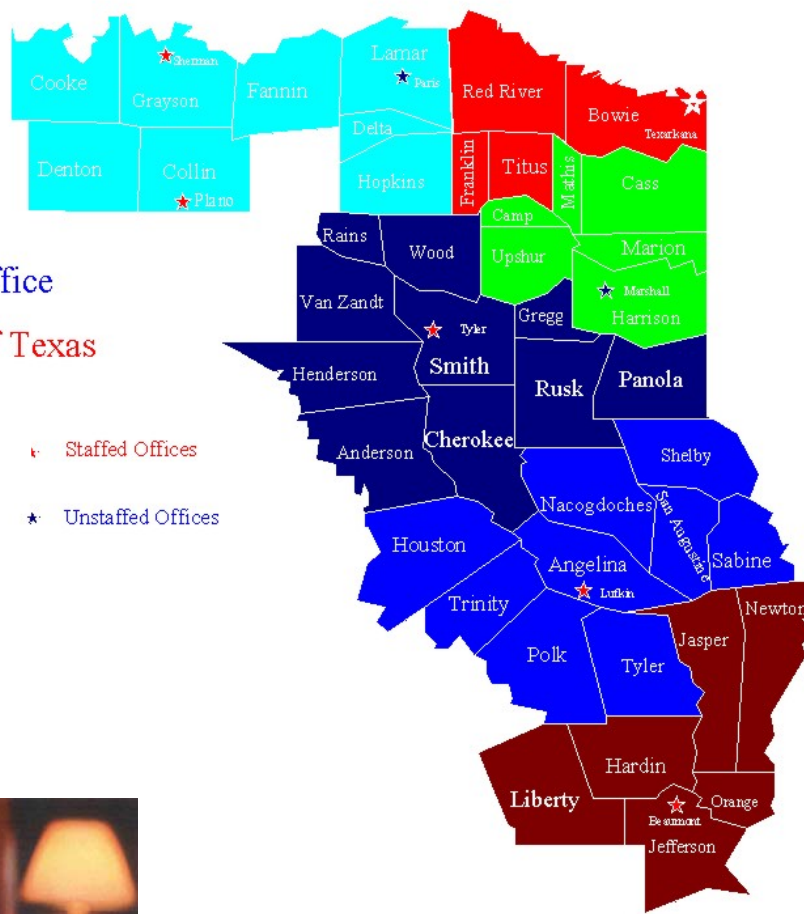
well. The weather was deep-east Texas spectacular and we all enjoyed dinner at my home on Lake Nacogdoches. Betsy and my girls did a wonderful job and we were actually able to keep Keith from sneaking down to the lake to dynamite some fish.

One final word, if Randi Russell tells you that your problem only needs a little masking tape - seek a second opinion.

—Malcolm

U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of Texas

- Beaumont Division (1)
- Marshall Division (2)
- Sherman Division (4)
- Texarkana Division (5)
- Tyler Division (6)
- Lufkin Division (9)
- ★ Staffed Offices
- ★ Unstaffed Offices



Beaumont
350 Magnolia Ave., Suite 150
Beaumont, Texas 77657
409-839-2538
Contact: Keith Giblin

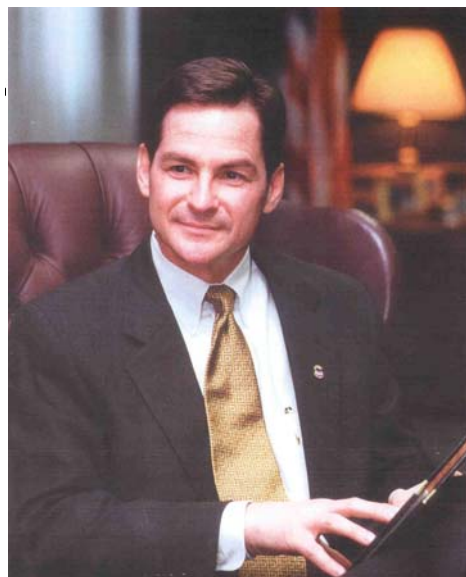
Plano
660 North Central Expy, Suite 400
Plano, Texas 75074
972-509-1201
Contact: Andy Williams

Lufkin
415 South 1st Street, Suite 201
Lufkin, Texas 75901
936-639-8671
Contact: Malcolm Bales

Tyler
110 North College, Suite 700
Tyler, Texas 75702
903-590-1400
Contact: Arnold Spencer

Sherman
1 Grand Avenue, Suite 500
Sherman, Texas 75090
903-868-9454
Contact: Maureen Smith

Texarkana
500 State Line Ave N., Suite 402
Texarkana, Texas 75501
903-794-9481
Contact: Barry Bryant



U.S. Attorney Matt Orwig

"The US Attorney is energetic and enthusiastic about his job. He has a clear vision of where he wants the USAO to be and carefully considers his options..."

-National Evaluation Team, USDOJ

Excerpt from the May, 2003, EARS Review of the Eastern District



**First Assistant
Becky Gregory**, housed in the Plano office, oversees the daily operations of the District.



**Criminal Chief
Malcolm Bales**, runs the Criminal Division from the Lufkin office.



Civil Chief Randi Russell, housed in the Tyler office, also serves as the FLU Chief.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

**The United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Texas**

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/txe/>